

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A punching apparatus ~~comprising:~~ comprising:
a base for placing thereon at least a portion of an object to be punched;
a punching structure mounted over said ~~the~~ base; ~~capable of digging into said~~
~~object to create at least one hole;~~
a transmitting shaft coupled to said ~~the~~ punching structure, ~~the transmitting shaft~~
~~being rotatable to move the punching structure to and from a punching position, the~~
~~transmitting shaft including a first end and a second end, the first end including a~~
~~polygonal portion, the second end including a polygonal portion; and capable of being~~
~~rotated to actuate said punching structure between a punching position and a releasing~~
~~position in response to first and second external forces, respectively;~~
a handle member ~~sized and configured to be connected to the first end of the~~
~~transmitting shaft, the handle member being sized and configured to be connected to the~~
~~second end of the transmitting shaft, the handle member including a polygonal portion;~~
~~attachable to and detachable from a first end and a second end of said transmitting shaft,~~
~~and capable of transmitting said punching structure to move between said punching~~
~~position and said releasing position in response to said first and said second external~~
~~forces exerted thereon, respectively;~~
a first positioning pin ~~sized and configured to penetrate~~ capable of penetrating a
hole on said ~~the~~ handle member and a hole on said ~~the~~ transmitting shaft; ~~in order to~~
~~secure said handle member to a selected one of said first end and said second end of said~~
~~transmitting shaft;~~
a stopper sized and configured to be connected to the first end of the transmitting

shaft, the stopper being sized and configured to be connected to the second end of the transmitting shaft, the stopper including a polygonal portion; and attachable to and detachable from said first end and said second end of said transmitting shaft capable of preventing said transmitting shaft from being dislocated, the stopper not having a handle, and

a second positioning pin sized and configured to penetrate capable of penetrating a hole on said the stopper and a hole on said the transmitting shaft; in order to secure said stopper to a selected one of said first end and said second end of said transmitting shaft;

wherein said stopper and said handle member are capable of being exchangeably disposed at said first and said second ends of said transmitting shaft.

wherein, when the handle member is connected to the first end of the transmitting shaft, the polygonal portion of the handle member is positioned to engage the polygonal portion of the first end of the transmitting shaft;

wherein, when the handle member is connected to the second end of the transmitting shaft, the polygonal portion of the handle member is positioned to engage the polygonal portion of the second end of the transmitting shaft;

wherein, when the stopper is connected to the first end of the transmitting shaft, the polygonal portion of the stopper abuts the polygonal portion of the first end of the transmitting shaft; and

wherein, when the stopper is connected to the second end of the transmitting shaft, the polygonal portion of the stopper abuts the polygonal portion of the second end of the transmitting shaft.

7-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The punching apparatus as in according to claim 6, wherein said the first and said the second ends of said the transmitting shaft are hexagonal posts, and said the handle member and said the stopper have respective hollow hexagonal portions sized and configured to interchangeably receive either of the ends for engaging with said first

and ~~said~~ second hexagonal posts.

12-13. **(Canceled)**

14. **(Currently Amended)** The punching apparatus as in ~~according to~~ claim 6,
wherein ~~said~~ the object is at least one sheet of paper. ~~a stack of paper sheets.~~

15 - 30. **(Canceled)**

Please add the following new claims:

31. **(New)** A punching system comprising:
- a base comprising:
 - a first side portion;
 - an opposing second side portion;
 - a lower portion sized and configured to abut a support surface; and
 - an upper portion sized and configured to support at least a portion of an object to be punched;
 - a hole punch;
 - a shaft connected to the hole punch, the shaft being rotatable to move the hole punch to and from a punching position, the shaft comprising:
 - a first attachment portion including a non-circular portion; and
 - a second attachment portion including a non-circular portion; and
 - a first handle member including an attachment portion sized and configured to be interchangeably connected to the first and second attachment portions of the shaft, the attachment portion of the first handle member including a non-circular portion;
- wherein, when the attachment portion of the first handle member is connected to the first attachment portion of the shaft, the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the first handle member is positioned to engage the non-circular portion of the first attachment portion of the shaft;
- wherein, when the attachment portion of the first handle member is connected to the first attachment portion of the shaft, the first handle member is positioned proximate the first side portion of the base and away from the second side portion of the base;
- wherein, when the attachment portion of the first handle member is connected to the second attachment portion of the shaft, the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the first handle member is positioned to engage the non-circular portion of the second attachment portion of the shaft; and
- wherein, when the attachment portion of the first handle member is connected to the second attachment portion of the shaft, the first handle member is positioned proximate the second side portion of the base and away from the first side portion of the

base.

32. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 31, wherein the non-circular portion of the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a polygonal portion; wherein the non-circular portion of the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a polygonal portion; and wherein the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a polygonal portion.

33. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 31, wherein the non-circular portion of the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a hexagonal portion; wherein the non-circular portion of the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a hexagonal portion; and wherein the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a hexagonal portion.

34. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 31, wherein the non-circular portion of the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a non-circular post; wherein the non-circular portion of the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a non-circular post; and wherein the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a non-circular recess.

35. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 34, wherein the non-circular post of the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a polygonal post; wherein the non-circular post of the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a polygonal post; and wherein the non-circular recess of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a polygonal recess.

36. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 34, wherein the non-circular post of the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a hexagonal post; wherein the non-circular post of the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a hexagonal post; and wherein the non-circular recess of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a hexagonal

recess.

37. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 31, further comprising:

a stopper including an attachment portion sized and configured to be interchangeably connected to the first and second attachment portions of the shaft, the attachment portion of the stopper including a non-circular portion;

wherein, when the attachment portion of the stopper is connected to the first attachment portion of the shaft, the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the stopper abuts the non-circular portion of the first attachment portion of the shaft;

wherein, when the attachment portion of the stopper is connected to the first attachment portion of the shaft, the stopper is positioned proximate the first side portion of the base and away from the second side portion of the base;

wherein, when the attachment portion of the stopper is connected to the first attachment portion of the shaft, the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the stopper abuts the non-circular portion of the first attachment portion of the shaft; and

wherein, when the attachment portion of the stopper is connected to the first attachment portion of the shaft, the stopper is positioned proximate the first side portion of the base and away from the second side portion of the base.

38. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 37, wherein the non-circular portion of the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a polygonal portion; wherein the non-circular portion of the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a polygonal portion; wherein the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a polygonal portion; wherein the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a polygonal portion; and wherein the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the stopper comprises a polygonal portion.

39. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 37, wherein the non-circular portion of the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a hexagonal portion; wherein the non-circular portion of the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a hexagonal portion; wherein the

non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a hexagonal portion; and wherein the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the stopper comprises a hexagonal portion.

40. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 37, wherein the non-circular portion of the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a non-circular post; wherein the non-circular portion of the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a non-circular post; wherein the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a non-circular recess; and wherein the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the stopper comprises a non-circular recess.

41. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 40, wherein the non-circular post of the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a polygonal post; wherein the non-circular post of the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a polygonal post; wherein the non-circular recess of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a polygonal recess; and wherein the non-circular recess of the attachment portion of the stopper comprises a polygonal recess.

42. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 40, wherein the non-circular post of the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a hexagonal post; wherein the non-circular post of the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a hexagonal post; wherein the non-circular recess of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a hexagonal recess; and wherein the non-circular recess of the attachment portion of the stopper comprises a hexagonal recess.

43. **(Withdrawn)** The punching system as in claim 31, further comprising:
a second handle member including an attachment portion sized and configured to be interchangeably connected to the first and second attachment portions of the shaft, the attachment portion of the second handle member including a non-circular portion;
wherein, when the attachment portion of the second handle member is connected

to the first attachment portion of the shaft, the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the second handle member is positioned to engage the non-circular portion of the first attachment portion of the shaft;

wherein, when the attachment portion of the second handle member is connected to the first attachment portion of the shaft, the second handle member is positioned proximate the first side portion of the base and away from the second side portion of the base;

wherein, when the attachment portion of the second handle member is connected to the second attachment portion of the shaft, the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the second handle member is positioned to engage the non-circular portion of the second attachment portion of the shaft; and

wherein, when the attachment portion of the second handle member is connected to the second attachment portion of the shaft, the second handle member is positioned proximate the second side portion of the base and away from the first side portion of the base.

44. **(Withdrawn)** The punching system as in claim 31, wherein the non-circular portion of the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a non-circular recess; wherein the non-circular portion of the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a non-circular recess; and wherein the non-circular portion of the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a non-circular post.

45. **(New)** A punching system comprising:
- a base comprising:
 - a first side portion;
 - an opposing second side portion;
 - a lower portion sized and configured to abut a support surface; and
 - an upper portion sized and configured to support at least a portion of an object to be punched;
 - a hole punch;
 - a shaft connected to the hole punch, the shaft being rotatable to move the hole punch to and from a punching position, the shaft comprising:
 - a first attachment portion disposed proximate the first side portion of the base and away from the second side portion of the base; and
 - a second attachment portion disposed proximate the second side portion of the base and away from the first side portion of the base; and
 - a first handle member including an attachment portion sized and configured to be interchangeably connected to the first and second attachment portions of the shaft;
 - wherein, when the attachment portion of the first handle member is connected to the first attachment portion of the shaft, the attachment portion of the first handle member is positioned to engage the first attachment portion of the shaft; and
 - wherein, when the attachment portion of the first handle member is connected to the second attachment portion of the shaft, the attachment portion of the first handle member is positioned to engage the second attachment portion of the shaft.
46. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 45, further comprising:
- a stopper including an attachment portion sized and configured to be interchangeably connected to the first and second attachment portions of the shaft;
 - wherein, when the attachment portion of the stopper is connected to the first attachment portion of the shaft, the attachment portion of the stopper abuts the first attachment portion of the shaft; and
 - wherein, when the attachment portion of the stopper is connected to the second

attachment portion of the shaft, the attachment portion of the stopper abuts the second attachment portion of the shaft.

47. **(New)** The punching system as in claim 45, wherein the first attachment portion of the shaft comprises a non-circular post; wherein the second attachment portion of the shaft comprises a non-circular post; and wherein the attachment portion of the first handle member comprises a non-circular recess.